

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 INR-07

RSC-01 /048 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:KJWEAVER:ARCK

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TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ENRG, CH, JA, KS, TW

SUBJECT: PRC OFFSHORE DRILLING

1. THE FOLLOWING ITEM TAKEN FROM THE EA/PRCM WEEKLY
STATUS REPORT IS TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

2. QUOTE: AN NCNA BROADCAST ON DECEMBER 30 CLAIMED THAT
THE PRC HAS SUCCESSFULLY DRILLED ITS FIRST "DEEP WATER"
OIL WELL, IN THE SOUTHERN YELLOW SEA (PROBABLY NEAR THE
KIANGSU COAST NORTH OF SHANGHAI). PREVIOUS PRC OFFSHORE
DRILLING ACTIVITY HAS BEEN ALMOST ENTIRELY CONFINED TO THE
SHALLOW, PROTECTED WATERS OF THE POHAI GULF. ALTHOUGH
OPINIONS DIFFER ON THE CAPABILITIES OF THE PRC-BUILT DRILL
RIG DESCRIBED IN THE REPORT, NCNA'S EMPHASIS ON "DEEP
WATER" OPERATIONS SUGGESTS AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN EXPLOITING
THE MAJOR OIL DEPOSITS WHICH MAY LIE IN THE NORTH ASIA

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CONTINENTAL SHELF. SEVERAL FOREIGN-MADE DEEP-WATER RIGS

ARE SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY TO THE CHINESE IN 1975; WE
ARE CONCERNED THAT AS ITS OFF-SHORE CAPABILITY GROWS
PEKING MAY TAKE A MORE ASSERTIVE STAND AGAINST ANY OPERA-
TIONS BY FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES IN JAPANESE, ROK AND ROC
CONCESSIONS ON THE DISPUTED SHELF. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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